

## [Archives, Sine numero]

### Obituary book and Martyrology England, Oxford(?), 1341 x 1351

#### Text

[Section I occupies quires 1–3]

1. (fols. vii–xxx) Obituary book of Queen’s College, Oxford (edited by John Richard Magrath, *Liber obitarius Aulae Reginae in Oxonia / The obituary book of Queen’s College, Oxford, an ancient Sarum Kalendar with the obits of the founders and benefactors of the College* (Oxford, 1910)) [\[Image\]](#) [\[Image\]](#) [\[Image\]](#) [\[Image\]](#); fols. xxxi–xxxiv are blank except for later inscriptions (see under Provenance).

[Section II occupies quires 4–9]

2. (fols. 1–64v) Martyrology, with feasts from the Circumcision (1 Jan.) to St. Silvester (31 Dec.), preceded by six prologues:
  - (fol. 1r) ‘*De prologus diuersis super opus martyrologij, per quos patet quantam diligenciam sancti & antiqui ad compilacionem huius opusculi habebant.*’
  - (i) ‘*Notandum quod licet multi dederunt operam ad compilandum martirologium tamen tres fuerunt maioris autoritatis qui opus huiusmodi tradiderunt. primus fuit Ieronimus ... secundus fuit Beda ... Tercius fuit Usuardus ... alius et tenendum*’ [\[Image\]](#) (also found in Glasgow, MS. Hunter 412);
  - (ii) ‘*Epistola chromacij et eliodori episcoporum ad Ieronimum. Domino sancto fratri Ieronimo chromatius & heliodorus episcopi in domino salutem. Cum religiosissimus augustus theodosius mediolanensium urbem fuisset ingressus ... dei martyribus exhibere.*’;
  - (iii) (fol. 1r–v) ‘*Responsio Ieronimi ad eosdem super eodem. Cromacio et heliodoro sanctis episcopis Ieronimus presbiter. Constat dominum nostrum ihesum christum omni die martyrum suorum triumphos excipere. ... in celesti gloria fecit esse sublimes.*’ (Migne, *PL*, XXX, cols. 435B–436C); [\[Image\]](#)
  - (iv) (fols. 1v–2r) ‘*Prefacio que in pluribus libris ascribitur bede super opere martyrologii plures autem ipsam excerptam dicunt ex libris augustini.* [added marginal note by Langbaine(?): ‘*Lib. 20 contra Faustum cap. 21*’] *Festiuitates sanctorum apostolorum seu martyrum antiqui patres in ueneracionis misterio celebrari sanxerunt ... honorandi sunt caritate non seruitute.* (ed. Jacques Dubois, *Le martyrologe d’Usuard: texte et commentaire*, *Subsidia Hagiographica*, 40 (Brussels, 1965), p. 146; Migne, *PL*, CXXIII, cols. 599C–602A);
  - (v) (fol. 2r) ‘*Epistola seu prefacio vsuardi monachi ad karolum regem; super opere martyrologij. Domino regum piissimo karolo augusto; vsuardus indignus sacerdos \ac monachus/ perennem in christo coronam. Minime uestram latet celsitudinem ... dignetur custodire potentia . Amen.*’ (ed. Dubois, *op. cit.*, p. 144; Migne, *PL*, CXXIII, 599A–600B);
  - (vi) ‘*De arte inueniendi qualiter pronuncianda sit luna quelibet die secundum numerum suprapositum singulis litteris in martyrologio & ubi singulis annis litera mutetur. Cciendum [recte Sciendum] est quod quemlibet littera alphabeti que in hoc martyrologio in inferiorum linea usque ad T litteram notata est ... bisextilibus in festo*

beati mathie scilicet sexto kalendas marcij. ¶ Iste numeris in margine scriptus aureus numerus vocatur, et ideo hoc ponitur ut falsitas prime lune alterius numero per hunc corrigatur’;

(fols. 2v–64v) ‘*Kalendis januarii. luna. Octava natiuitatis domini nostri ihesu christi & circumcisio eiusdem. In cesarea capadocia deposicio sancti basilii episcopi. ... sancti hermetis exorciste. Et aliorum plurimorum sanctorum martyrum confessorum atque uirginum [one more word erased]*’ [\[Image\]](#) [\[Image\]](#) (cf. Migne, *PL*, CXXXIII, col. 601 – CXXIV, col. 858); the entries include: Translation of St. Francis (fol. 26v); Nativity of St. Anthony of Padua (fol. 29v); Nativity of St. Dominic (fol. 38v); Nativity of St. Clare (fol. 39v); Deposition of St. Bernard (fol. 41r); Nativity and Octave of St. Francis (fols. 49r, 50v); St. Malachi of Clairvaux (fol. 54v); Edmund king of England (fol. 57r); and, unusually, the dies natalis of Thomas Becket (fol. 64r); fols. 65–66 are old parchment.

### Decoration

I. Obit Book. Four-line KL monograms in gold on a field of blue and rose with white tracery; one-line initials and paraphs, similar but simpler (i.e. champ initials). [\[Image\]](#)

II. Martyrology. One five- to six-line parted initial in red and blue with red penwork, with delicate interlace and foliate infill, and foliate surrounding penwork; two-line initials, blue with red penwork, similar but simpler; one-line paraphs alternately red or blue.

[\[Image\]](#)

### Physical Description

Parchment, c.340 x c.225 mm., of average quality.

ff. ii (paper; fols. i–ii) + i (former pastedown, with paper stuck to the recto; fol. iii) + iii (fols. iv–vi) + 94 + iii (paper; fols. 67–69). Foliated in 20th-century pencil.

Collation: 1–2<sup>12</sup> (fols. vii–xxx); 3<sup>4</sup> (fols. xxxi–xxxiv) | 4–8<sup>12</sup> (fols. 1–60), 9<sup>6</sup> (fols. 61–66). Catchwords in quires 4–6 and 8.

The Obituary ruled in brown ink, the text area c.260 x c.155 mm.; the Martyrology ruled in leadpoint, the text area c.275 x c.170 mm.

The Obituary written with 39–41 lines of text, in a formal gothic liturgical bookhand, with additions in a variety of formal and cursive scripts; the Martyrology written with typically 40–42 lines of text (but variable), in anglicana script.

### Binding

Sewn on five bands, and bound in 19th/20th-century (before 1910) blind-tooled reddish-brown sheep(?) skin; with marbled endpapers; the spine lettered in gilt capitals ‘Liber | Obitalis | cum | Martyrologio’. [\[Image\]](#)

### Provenance

1. Written in England for Queen’s College, Oxford (founded by Robert de Eglesfield by royal licence granted in January 1341), and mentioned in the statutes sealed by the founder on 10 February 1341; the College accounts for the period April 1350 to

October 1351 include entries for the decoration of the Martyrology and for the writing of names of benefactors, presumably in the Obituary book (Magrath, *Liber obituarius*, p. ix, xii)

2. References to popes and Becket effaced/erased, presumably in the mid 16th century; inscribed, perhaps by Thomas Barlow, 'Liber Obitalis Coll. Reg: Oxon, una cu(m) Martyrologio.' (fol. ivr) [\[Image\]](#); inscribed with 11-, 9-, and 10-line notes, probably by Gerard Langbaine (fols. xxxir, xxxiv verso; cf. Magrath, *op. cit.*, p. x) [\[Image\]](#); inscribed with an 'AW' monogram followed by 'm. c.' (fol. 64v, lower gutter corner) [\[Image\]](#); inscribed 'Archiv. | E. 19' (fol. iiiv) [\[Image\]](#); stamped on several leaves with 20th-century small blue ink stamps 'MUN. COLL. | REG. OXON.' [\[Image\]](#)

Status: Draft